MEMORADUM

TO: Eligible Providers and Hospitals Participating in the CMS EHR Incentive Program

FROM: Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

DATE: June 30, 2011

RE: Information about fulfilling Stage 1 Meaningful Use Requirements for Public Health Data Reporting

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To meet Stage 1 Meaningful Use requirements for the CMS EHR Incentive Program, Eligible Professionals (EP) and Eligible Hospitals (EH) must meet a specified number of "core" and "menu" set objectives defined by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). Within the menu set objectives, there are the following objectives related to public health:

- Capability to submit electronic data to immunization registries or immunization information systems and actual submission according to applicable law and practice (applies to EPs and EHs)
- Capability to submit electronic data on reportable (as required by State or local law) lab results to public health agencies and actual submission according to applicable law and practice (only applies to EHs)
- Capability to submit electronic syndromic surveillance data to public health agencies and actual submission according to applicable law and practice (applies to EPs and EHs)

EPs and EHs must choose at least one of the public health objectives as part of the five menu set objectives that are required unless they have an exclusion from reporting any of the public health measures.

Currently, only Medicare EPs and EHs participating in the EHR Incentive Program must meet the "core" and "menu" set objectives. Medicaid EPs and EHs will not have to meet these requirements until their second year of participation in the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. Maryland plans to begin Medicaid EHR Incentive Program registration in the fall of 2011.

As of **June 14, 2011**, DHMH is able to accept all three public health measures. This means that if you are an EP or EH and attested to Stage 1 of meaningful use before this date, the EP or EH can claim an exclusion from the requirement to perform a test of certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data for a public health measure. All EPs and <u>EHs attesting after June 14, 2011 must attempt to perform a test of their certified EHR technology's capacity to submit electronic data for a public health measure to fulfill meaningful use requirements.</u>

To aid in the testing and submission of public health measures, the Department created an online survey that allows EPs and EHs to submit information necessary to begin the testing process. To fill out the survey please go to http://dhmh.state.md.us/mma/ehr/html/meaningfuluse.html. In addition to providing you with a survey tool to begin the testing process, this web page contains information about the specifications for data submission. When you complete and submit the survey, DHMH's Office of Information Technology (OIT) will contact you about setting up a time for public health data submission testing.
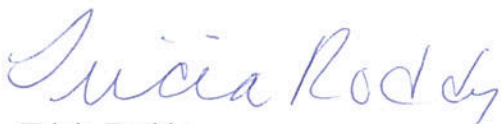
Although DHMH has the capability to accept public health reporting measures and will aid providers interesting in submitting this information, we encourage providers and hospitals to consider connecting to the state Health Information Exchange (HIE), the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP). For information about using the HIE as a transport mechanism for submitting public health data and for exchanging health information in general, please contact CRISP at (877) 95-CRISP (27477) or info@crisphealth.org.

If you have specific questions about public health reporting, you can email us at the following addresses.

- Electronic Lab Reporting: LabsEHR@dhmh.state.md.us.
- Immunization Reporting: ImmunizationsEHR@dhmh.state.md.us.
- Syndromic Surveillance: SyndromicSurvEHR@dhmh.state.md.us.

For general questions about the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program, you can contact us at MarylandEHR@dhmh.state.md.us. Or you can visit the Department's EHR Incentive Program website at: http://www.dhmh.state.md.us/mma/ehr/index.html.

Sincerely,

Tricia Roddy

Tricia Roddy
Director, Department of Planning
Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene